

CHAPTER 22  
MINIMUM TRAINING STANDARDS FOR DENTAL ASSISTANTS  
ENGAGING IN DENTAL RADIOGRAPHY

[Prior to 5/18/88, Dental Examiners, Board of[320]]

**650—22.1(153) Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

*“Approved program or course of study”* means didactic and clinical training the Iowa board of dental examiners has determined to be adequate to train students to meet the requirements specified in subrules 22.3(1) to 22.3(3).

*“Clinical experience”* means direct and personal participation of the student in radiographic procedures incident to patient diagnostic problems.

*“Dental radiography”* means the application of X-radiation to human teeth and supporting structures for diagnostic purposes only.

*“Student”* means a person enrolled in or participating in such an approved program or course of study.

**650—22.2(153) Minimum eligibility requirements.** Each student shall submit to the Iowa board of dental examiners satisfactory documentation evidencing:

**22.2(1)** Graduation from high school or its equivalent.

**22.2(2)** Attainment of 18 years of age.

**22.2(3)** Freedom from physical or mental impairment which would interfere with performance of duties or otherwise constitute a hazard to the health or safety of patients.

**650—22.3(153) Training requirements.** No person shall operate radiation-emitting equipment for purposes of dental radiography without having first successfully completed an approved program or course of study which includes the following:

**22.3(1)** Theoretical considerations underlying radiation hygiene and radiological practices including radiation protection of patients and workers, monitoring, shielding, units of measurement and permissible levels, biological effects of radiation, and technical considerations in reducing radiation exposure and frequency of retakes.

**22.3(2)** Expose, process, evaluate for quality, mount, and file radiographic projections usually involved in dental radiography.

**22.3(3)** Clinical experience sufficient to demonstrate proficiency.

**650—22.4(153) Exemptions.**

**22.4(1)** An applicant for qualification in dental radiography shall be deemed eligible for examination upon compliance with the provisions of subrules 22.3(1) to 22.3(3).

**22.4(2)** Students enrolled in an approved accredited dental assistant program who, as part of their course of study, apply ionizing radiation.

**22.4(3)** Dental assistants under student status who are enrolled in a board-approved dental radiography home/office study program who, as a part of their home/office study, apply ionizing radiation to a human being while under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist, in a dental office, provided the course of study is completed in not more than six months from its inception. Prior to engaging in home/office study, the dental assistant must make application for student status to the board on the form approved by the board.

**22.4(4)** Students enrolled in a board-accredited school of dentistry or dental hygiene.

**650—22.5(153) Approval of programs.** A program of learning may be approved by the board if the program:

**22.5(1)** Constitutes an organized program of learning which contributes to the proficiency and skills of an individual operating radiation-emitting equipment or otherwise engaging in dental radiography; and

**22.5(2)** Is conducted by individuals having special education, training and experience by reason of which said individuals may be deemed qualified to conduct the program in dental radiography; and

**22.5(3)** Meets the requirements of subrules 22.3(1) to 22.3(3).

**22.5(4)** Application for approval of a program of learning shall be made to the board.

**650—22.6(153) Examination and proficiency evaluation.** Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, no person shall operate radiation-emitting equipment in any dental office without first having successfully completed a written examination approved by the board and who presents to the board satisfactory evidence that an Iowa licensed dentist attests to the reasonable clinical proficiency of that person observed over not less than one month, which shall be, for the purpose of this rule only, deemed a continuation of the person's status as a student under subrule 22.4(2) or 22.4(3).

**22.6(1)** In the event a dental assistant under student status pursuant to subrule 22.4(3) fails twice to successfully complete the examination, a third examination may be taken so long as the third examination is taken within 60 days after expiration of the six-month period of student status. In the event the dental assistant fails the third examination, student status shall be revoked and the dental assistant shall be deemed ineligible to participate in dental radiography under student status unless the student status is obtained pursuant to 22.4(2).

**22.6(2)** A dental assistant who completes a formal course of study pursuant to 22.4(2) or a dental assistant who takes the examination for issuance of a renewal of a certificate is allowed to take the examination not more than two times. The board may require the dental assistant to take remedial training prior to being allowed to retake the examination. Dental assistants in this category may not participate in dental radiography before successful completion of the examination and issuance of a certificate of qualification or issuance of a renewal of an existing certificate of qualification.

**650—22.7(153) Application for board qualification.** Applications for issuance of a certificate of qualification shall be made to the board on the form provided by the board and must be completely answered.

**22.7(1)** Applications must be filed with the board along with:

*a.* Proof that training and experience qualify the applicant to engage in dental radiography.

*b.* Proof that the applicant has successfully completed the Dental Radiation Health and Safety Examination of the Dental Assisting National Board, if taken after January 1, 1986, or proof of having successfully completed the written examination approved by the board.

*c.* Signed verification as to the truth of the statements and that the applicant has read the requirements of these rules and understands the regulations pertaining to dental radiography.

*d.* Signature of an Iowa licensed dentist attesting to the reasonable clinical proficiency of the applicant having observed the applicant for a period not less than 30 days. An applicant who meets all requirements except the 30-day clinical proficiency requirement may petition the board for a waiver of this requirement. Graduates of an accredited dental assistant program who make application for a certificate of qualification within one year of graduation are exempt from this requirement.

- e. The fee as specified in these rules.
- f. Additional information the board may require relating to character, education and experience as may be necessary to pass upon the applicant's qualification.

**22.7(2)** Any person who does not meet the requirements of subrule 22.7(1) may apply for student status as defined in subrule 22.4(3).

**650—22.8(153) Renewal requirements.**

**22.8(1)** Commencing in 1993, certificates shall be renewed biennially.

**22.8(2)** The renewal application shall be made in writing to the board at least 30 days before the current certificate expires.

**22.8(3)** Attendance once every four years at an updating seminar in dental radiography approved by the board shall be required for renewal. At the time of renewal the dental assistant shall be required to sign a statement that the dental assistant has attended the required course during the previous four-year period. Proof of attendance at such course of study shall be retained by the dental assistant and submitted to the board as further proof of compliance at the request of the board.

**22.8(4)** All certificates shall expire on June 30, 1993, and every two years thereafter.

**22.8(5)** The appropriate fee as specified in this chapter shall accompany the application for renewal. A penalty shall be assessed by the board for failure to renew within 30 days after expiration as specified in this chapter.

**22.8(6)** Failure to renew a certificate prior to November 1 following expiration shall cause the certificate to lapse and become invalid. A certificate holder whose certificate has lapsed and become invalid is prohibited from taking radiographs until the procedures for reinstatement are met.

**22.8(7)** The board may require recertification, qualification and clinical evaluation of a dental assistant holding a certificate of qualification in dental radiography if the board, in its discretion, believes such action is necessary for the protection of the public.

**650—22.9(136C) Certification of qualification in dental radiography—fees.**

**22.9(1)** The fee for application for a certificate of qualification or student status leading to qualification shall be \$35.

**22.9(2)** The fee for renewal of a certificate shall be \$30.

**22.9(3)** Failure to renew the certificate prior to August 1 following June 30 expiration shall result in a late fee of \$15 being assessed by the board in addition to the renewal fee. Failure to renew prior to September 1 following expiration shall result in a late fee of \$30 being assessed. Failure to renew prior to October 1 following expiration shall result in a late fee of \$60 being assessed. The maximum late fee shall be \$60.

**22.9(4)** The fee for reinstatement of a lapsed certificate of qualification in dental radiography shall be \$60.

**650—22.10(153) Responsibilities of certificate holder.**

**22.10(1)** The dental assistant holding a certificate of qualification issued by the board shall conspicuously display the certificate in the office of employment.

**22.10(2)** The dental assistant holding a certificate of qualification issued by the board shall notify the office of the board of any address change within 60 days.

**650—22.11(153) Enforcement.**

**22.11(1)** Any individual except a licensed dentist or a licensed dental hygienist who participates in dental radiography in violation of this chapter or Iowa Code chapter 136C shall be subject to the criminal and civil penalties set forth in Iowa Code sections 136C.4 and 136C.5.

**22.11(2)** Any licensed dentist who permits a person to engage in dental radiography contrary to this chapter or Iowa Code chapter 136C shall be subject to discipline by the board pursuant to 650—Chapter 30.

**650—22.12(153) Reinstatement of lapsed certificate of qualification in dental radiography.**

**22.12(1)** Certificate holders who allow their certificates to lapse by failing to renew such certificate may be reinstated by submitting the following:

- a.* A completed application for reinstatement of a lapsed certificate to engage in dental radiography.
- b.* Payment of reinstatement fee and current renewal fee.
- c.* Proof of attendance of an updating seminar in dental radiography taken within the previous four-year period from the date of application.
- d.* A dental assistant who ceases to participate in dental radiography for more than two years shall be required to successfully complete the examination and proficiency evaluation pursuant to rule 22.6(153).
- e.* A dental assistant who has current certification issued by another state is exempt from the examination requirement.

**22.12(2) Reserved.**

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 136C.3 and chapter 153.

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